Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any complaints alleging irregularities and bunglings in the Customs House in Bombay;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the actions taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) to (c). The Government does receive from time to time complaints from the trade and individuals regarding delays in clearance of goods, baggage of passengers etc. in various Custom Houses including Bombay Custom House. Such complaints are examined in consultation with the concerned Collectors of Customs and corrective action is taken, wherever called for.

[*Translation*]

Supply of Cotton Quota to Handloom Units In Bihar

266. SHRI MUMTAZ ANSARI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether small scale handloom units in Bihar are lying closed on account of non-supply of the quota of cotton;

(b) if so, the reasons therefore; and

(c) the maximum quota of cotton per unit being given or proposed to be given by the Union Government to the Government of Bihar to encourage export by these small scale handloom units?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) to (c). Handloom urnits do not use cotton. Therefore, there is no question of any handloom unit being closed on account of non-supply of the quota of cotton.

While there are no problems on the availability of cotton hank yarn for consumption in the handloom sector, the problem has been one of prices. The cotton yarn prices have registered an increase in the last few months. Government had taken a number of corrective measures including suspending export of cotton yarn and by pursuading the spinning mills in the cooperative, private and State sector to supply hank yarn to handloom weavers at pre-budget prices.

There is no quota for supply of cotton yarn to the handloom units.

Indigenous Technology for Production of Fighter Aircrafts

267. SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to develop indigenous technology for production of fighter aircraft; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) The Light Combat Aircraft is being developed indigenously. The technologies being developed under this programme include digital fly-by-wire control system, composites for wings, multi-mode radar and advanced avionics.

Powers of Income Tax Officials

268. SHRI JEEWAN SHARMA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state: